

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-10 and 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Green (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0129012). Claims 1, 12, and 23-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green in view of Fujisaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,666). Claims 1, 13, and 25 have been amended. Claims 8, 9, 20, 21, and 33 have been cancelled and their features have been incorporated into the independent claims from which they depend. No new matter has been added.

Independent claims 1, 13, and 25 as amended contain features neither taught or suggested by the prior art of record. In particular, independent claim 1 teaches:

A method for searching data in an electronic device comprising:

storing a plurality of first character strings and corresponding second character strings;

receiving a query; and

searching the stored character strings responsive to the query by receiving a character, appending said character to previously received characters if any, performing a prefix search of received characters on the stored second character strings, and returning a set of first character strings stored with the second character strings that match the prefix search, wherein receiving the character comprises receiving input from an input device, and determining the character from a set of characters that corresponds to the received input, further wherein the input device comprises a plurality of input points, and each input point corresponds to a unique subset of an alphabet.

Green purports to teach a document retrieval system that relates words using unique word codes to documents (Green, Abstract). A word lookup table further identifies sets of words with common characteristics, along with a character lookup table that identifies whether a particular word contains a specified character (Id.). When a search string is received a target set generator accesses the word lookup table to create a target word set corresponding to the search string (Id.).

Fujisaki purports to teach a method for performing an incremental search using a character string returned by a recognizer using a confusion matrix encoded dictionary to predict a word in a handwriting field of an application program (Fujisaki, Abstract). Handwritten characters are input into a data entry field of an application program (Id.). The characters are assigned a code, and the string is recognized by comparing the sequence of codes with a dictionary mapping code sequences with words (Id.).

The cited prior art fails to teach or suggest **the input device comprises a plurality of input points, with each input point corresponding to a unique subset of an alphabet**, as taught by claim 1 as amended. This feature was originally present in now cancelled claim 9. In rejection of claim 9, the Examiner stated that this feature was taught by Green at ¶ 30. Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited portion of Green merely describes how the character set is limited to only alphanumeric characters. There is simply no mention of an input device, or the mapping of subsets of characters to input points of an input device anywhere in the cited portion.

Fujisaki also fails to teach or suggest such a feature. Because none of the cited prior art, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed feature, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 1.

Independent claims 13, and 25 are independent claims and contain at least the feature of **the input device comprises a plurality of input points, with each input point corresponding to a unique subset of an alphabet**, as described above for independent claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to these claim for similar reasons as proposed above for independent claim 1.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-2835/306097.01
Application No.: 10/722,987
Office Action Dated: August 24, 2006

PATENT

Claims 2-7, 10-12, 14-19, 22-24, 26-32, and 34-36 are all variously dependent on independent claims 1, 13, and 25, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given above for the independent claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow claims 2-7, 10-12, 14-19, 22-24, 26-32, and 34-36.

Date: November 20, 2006

/Michael W. Tieff/
Michael W. Tieff
Registration No. 57,845

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439